

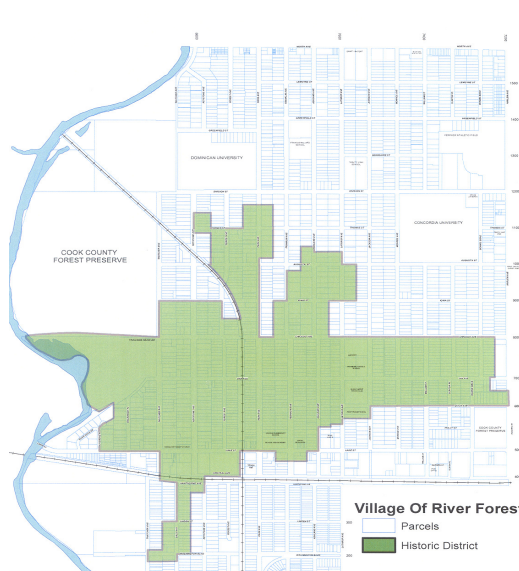
WHAT IS THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION?

The Historic Preservation Commission is a volunteer advisory board of seven River Forest citizens appointed by the Village President. Each Commissioner has some interest or experience in historic preservation or a related field such as architecture, construction and real estate. The Commission's charge is to encourage the preservation of River Forest's community character and foster the preservation of its significant properties, while allowing for appropriate renewal and modernization of its building stock.



For more information on historic preservation, please call or write:

Commission Liaison
Village of River Forest
400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
(708) 366 - 8500



THE RIVER FOREST HISTORIC DISTRICT



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Chairperson:

Laurel McMahon

Commissioners :

Kristen Charkow

Judy Deogracias

David Franek

Paul Harding

David Raino-Ogden

Tom Zurowski

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR RIVER FOREST HOME



DAVID C. THATCHER HOUSE.
(1858)



RESEARCHING YOUR HOME

Because River Forest is such an architecturally and historically rich area, many homeowners wish to uncover historical information relating to their own homes. The Historic Preservation Commission is currently in the process of developing a variety of resources aimed at assisting property owners in researching their home's history and architecture. Further, the Commission is considering an updated survey of historically and architecturally significant properties located within the Village. While these efforts continue, the Commission has compiled the following guide to assist you in researching your River Forest home.

Two important notes:

- ◆ Keep in mind that address numbers in River Forest changed in 1928. So, with respect to any materials dating prior to 1928, you will be looking for a different address. Staff at the Historical Society or members of the Historic Preservation Commission can assist you in determining the old address number for your home. Please also bear in mind that names and spellings of names may have changed over the years.
- ◆ Information from neighbors or former owners of your home and any documentation or other treasures found in your home can be invaluable to your research.



SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON YOUR HOME

◆ Village of River Forest

The Village of River Forest maintains copies of building permits issued by the Village from 1903 through the present. Homeowners may contact the Village Building Department for instructions on obtaining copies of building permits relating to their home. Homeowners may be required to complete a Freedom of Information Act request in order to obtain this information.

Contact Information

708-366-8500

www.river-forest.us

Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue, River Forest

◆ Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest

The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest offers a wealth of information on River Forest history. Research is conducted by appointment with an Historical Society staff member. Appointments may be made by calling the number listed below. An Historical Society staff person will guide you through the various resources available. Examples of the types of resources available at the Historical Society are as follows:

- * Street files for most blocks within the Village (street files may include sales information, newspaper clippings, information regarding noteworthy residents or events, etc.)
- * Photos
- * Village Directories
- * Books
- * Maps and ownership indices
- * Clippings from local newspapers
- * Biographical, subject and organization files
- * Real estate listings
- * Other resources from both personal and professional sources too numerous to list

Contact Information

708-848-6755

www.oprf.com/OPRFHIST

John Farson House (Pleasant Home), 217 Home Ave.,
2nd Floor, Oak Park

SOURCES OF INFORMATION CONTINUED

◆ River Forest Public Library

The River Forest Public Library maintains a small collection of local historical materials including books relating to the general history and architecture of River Forest and an online genealogical database called Heritage Quest (which may be accessed at the library or from your home computer). Homeowners can contact a reference librarian for assistance in using the library's materials.

Contact Information

708-366-5205

www.riverforestlibrary.org

735 Lathrop Avenue, River Forest

◆ Cook County Recorder of Deeds

The Cook County Recorder of Deeds maintains Tract Books listing all real estate transactions relating to a property in chronological order. You will need the legal description of your property in order to find the listings for your home. The legal description can typically be found on deeds, surveys, title insurance policies and other documents relating to your property. Real estate transactions from 1985 through the present are available online at the web address listed below.

Contact Information

312-603-5050

www.ccrd.info

Cook County Building

118 North Clark Street, Room 120, Chicago

